

1

My Love STORY!!



KAZUNE
KAWAHARA

ARUKO

Story Art



Shojo Beat

MY Love STORY!!

Story **KAZUNE
KAWAHARA**
Art **ARUKO**

1

MY *love* STORY!!



Chapter 1

3

Chapter 2

52

Chapter 3

105





WHY ARE
TWO GUYS
LIKE US
FRIENDS?

I GOTTA
SAY, IT'S A
MYSTERY.

MY *love* STORY!!



THANK YOU SO MUCH, ARUKO!!

Sorry to butt in here.

I'm Kazune Kawahara, the writer of this series. Now, I'm going to be saying some things about the story here, so please stop reading now and come back after you've read the manga, okay?

First off, I'd like to tell you all a bit about what went on behind the scenes. See, I was chatting with my editor about how much I like the men Aruko draws. They're so cool and totally my type! So when my editor asked if I'd be up for writing a series for her, I said I'd love to—if Aruko was interested. And it turned out she was! That's how I wound up writing this story, so thank you, Aruko!

I wanted her to draw one of those cool guys I love so much, so I told her to draw me a hot guy. She drew Suna for me. He's incredibly good-looking, so thank you for that too!

I'm thrilled to be able to work with Aruko! ☺ This kind of turned into a letter... Sorry!



I'm also impressed with how Aruko draws character types who don't tend to appear in shōjo manga, so I asked her to draw me someone like that. I wanted a guy who'd be popular with the other guys—someone who looked like a "Goda" or a "Takeo" or something. And that's how she came up with Takeo!

When the character design was faxed over, I couldn't stop laughing. Apparently the editorial department had a good laugh, too. Thank you so much, Aruko!

Kawahara out!

Also, when this appeared in the magazine, my editor chose "Ugly guys are in!" for the tagline. What?! That's pretty rude, isn't it?! The Takeo I wrote about isn't an ugly guy. ☹ And Aruko didn't draw him as an ugly guy, either! ☹

I don't think he's ugly! Aruko's Takeo is pretty cool!!



50th ANNUAL SHUEI MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADUATION CEREMONY

TAKEO!

CALL, OKAY?
IT'LL BE
HARD FOR
ME TO
VISIT YOU.

OH.

I'M SO
BUMMED THAT
WE'LL BE AT
DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS!

I
WANTED
TO GO TO
THE SAME
ONE AS
YOU!

YEAH?

TAKEO
SENPAI!

GOT
IT.

MAKE
SURE YOU
GET TO
NATIONALS
THIS YEAR!

THANKS,
GUYS.

SENPAI...

MAKE SURE
YOU DROP
BY PRACTICE
SOMETIMES!

THIS IS
FROM THE
TEAM.



DASH

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'VE GOTTA
DO!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING,
TAKEO?!

TAKEO!

TAKEO
SENPAI!

SENPAI...

TAKEO!

SENPAI!



...I WANT TO
TELL HER I
LOVE HER!

BEFORE I
GRADUATE...

SATO,
THAT GIRL
WHO WAS ON
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL WITH
ME, HAS THE
SWEETEST
SMILE.

"TAKEO!"

I'VE HAD A
CRUSH ON YOU
FOR A LONG
TIME NOW,
SUNAKAWA.

I...

UM...

THERE
SHE
IS!



WELL...

...I
DON'T
LIKE YOU
AT ALL.



COME ON,
LET'S GO.



UH...
YEAH.

YOU...?



HEY,
TAKEO!
YOU
HEADING
HOME?



MAYBE
APRIL 6TH?
SOMEWHERE
AROUND
THERE.

APRIL
7TH, I
THINK.



WHEN IS THE
HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
AGAIN?



THAT'S
NOT
HELPFUL.

...

...IS
REALLY
POPULAR
WITH
GIRLS.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM
SMILE.

ISN'T
SUNAKAWA
THE
COOLEST?

**MAKOTO
SUNAKAWA**

...

I'D LOVE
TO SEE IT
SOME-
TIME!

THAT'S
SO
COOL!

...WHEN
HE'S IN
LOVE!

HE
PROBABLY
ONLY
SMILES...



I
HATE
YOU.



I LOVE YOU,
SUNAKAWA!

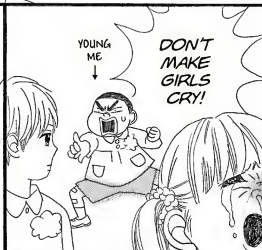


IN PRESCHOOL,
I HAD THE
BIGGEST CRUSH
ON A GIRL
NAMED YUZUHA,
BUT WHEN
WE HAD OUR
GRADUATION
CEREMONY...



THAT'S
OKAY!

SORRY.



YOUNG
ME
↓

DON'T
MAKE
GIRLS
CRY!



...HE
MADE
HER
CRY.

THEY
ALL
FELL
IN
LOVE
WITH
SUNA.



NO
WAY.

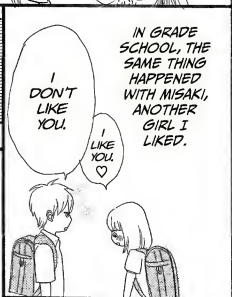
THERE
WAS
KAYOMI...

NOPE.

AND
ERIHA...

UGH.

AND
MAO...



I
DON'T
LIKE
YOU.

I
LIKE
YOU.
♡

IN GRADE
SCHOOL, THE
SAME THING
HAPPENED
WITH MISAKI,
ANOTHER
GIRL I
LIKED.

...SO WE
PLAYED
TOGETHER
A LOT.

OUR
MOMS
WERE
FRIENDS
...

WE JUST
THOUGHT
WE'D
DROP BY!

WE USED
TO BE
NEXT-DOOR
NEIGHBORS
IN AN
APARTMENT
BUILDING.

PEOPLE
ALWAYS
ASK WHY
SUNA AND
I ARE
FRIENDS.

COME
ON IN!
DON'T
MIND THE
MESS.



...

CHOOSE
YOUR WEAPON!
WANNA PLAY
SUPER-
HEROES?
POKÉMON?
CARDS?

TIME
FOR A
BATTLE!

WE'RE
GUYS,
SO
LET'S
FIGHT! YEEAH!

YEAH
YEAH!



...THAT
DIDN'T MEAN
WE REALLY
FOUGHT OR
ANYTHING.

BE-
CAUSE
YOU
SUCK

WHY DO
I KEEP
LOSING
?!

BUT...

AARGH!

I HATE
THAT I'M
ALWAYS
LOSING.

I
HATE
THIS!

CRAP!



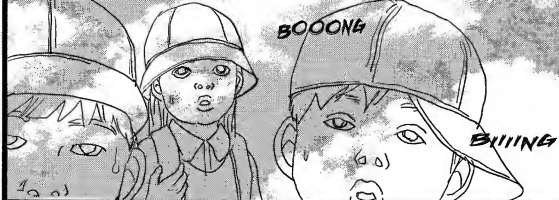
HUGE DIFFERENCE
IN ENTHUSIASM...

WE DIDN'T
NECESSARILY
GET ALONG
JUST 'CAUSE
OUR MOMS
DID.

LET'S
PLAY
W/!

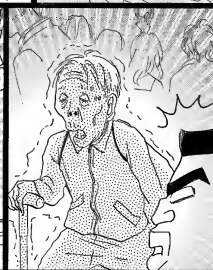
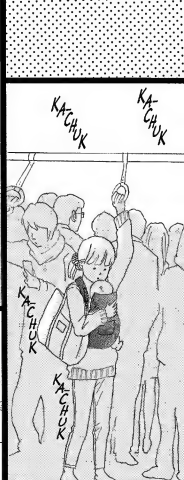






THERE'S BEEN
A REPORT OF
SOMEONE
SUSPICIOUS
LOITERING AT
THE SCHOOL
GATE...







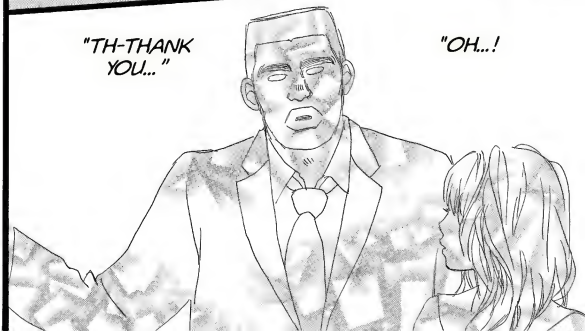
THINK
HE'S UP
TO SOME-
THING?

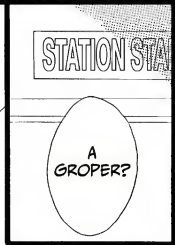
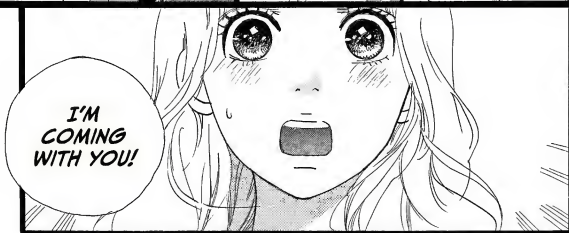
THAT GUY
THERE...

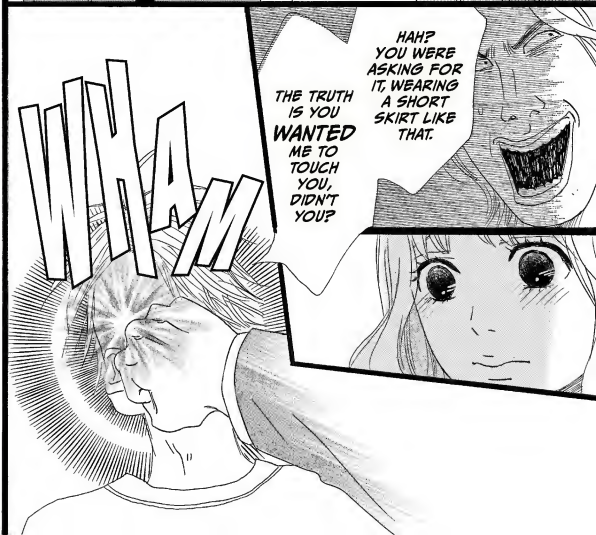
...LOOKS
SUSPICIOUS.

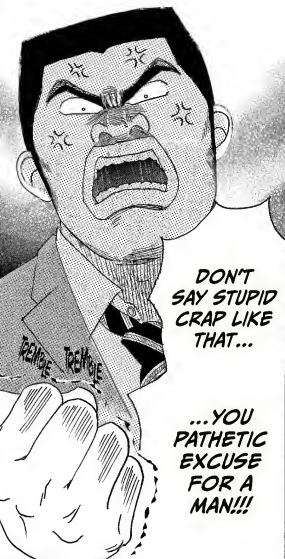


**YOU!
YOU'RE
GETTING
OFF AT
THE NEXT
STOP!!!**



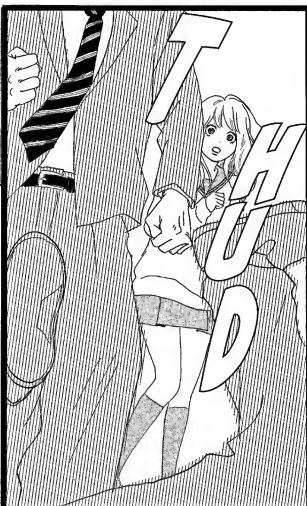


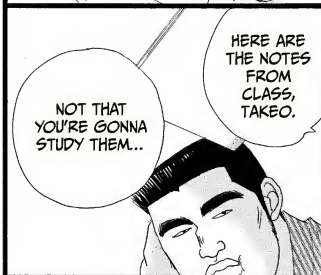




**DON'T
SAY STUPID
CRAP LIKE
THAT...**

**...YOU
PATHETIC
EXCUSE
FOR A
MAN!!!**







TMP

TMP

TMP

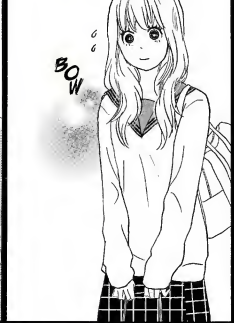
TMP!







THANK
YOU SO
MUCH...



...FOR ALL
YOUR HELP
YESTERDAY.

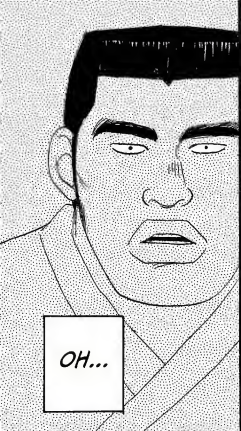


**I
LOVE
HER.**



WHAT?!





OH...



YOU'RE
LEAVING?!

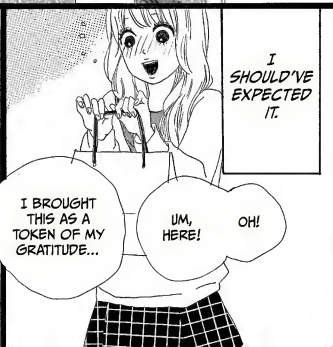


IT'S
HAPPENING
AGAIN.

I
SEE.



LET'S ALL
HAVE SOME.
THE MORE,
THE MERRIER,
RIGHT?



I
SHOULD'VE
EXPECTED
IT.

I BROUGHT
THIS AS A
TOKEN OF MY
GRATITUDE...

UM,
HERE!

OH!



SEE
YA.

THANKS
FOR
THE
CAKE.

ANYWAY, I'M
GOING HOME
FOR REAL
NOW.

OH!
I'VE GOT TO
GET GOING
TOO!

YEAH!

CHEESECAKE.
YOU'VE
NEVER HAD IT
BEFORE?

THIS
CAKE IS
AMAZING!
WHAT KIND
IS IT?

NEVER!
BUT NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT, IT
DOES
TASTE
LIKE
CHEESE!

WHAT...?



BUT THEN
I LOST MY
TEMPER IN
FRONT OF
HER...

THANKS
AGAIN FOR
EVERYTHING!

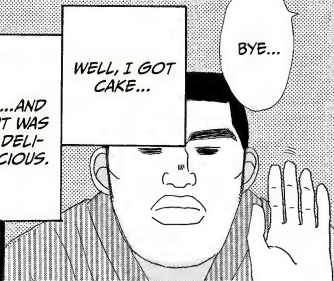
I'M THE
ONE WHO
HELPED
HER.

IT'S ALL
GOOD, I
GUESS.

...AND
IT WAS
DELI-
CIOUS.

WELL, I GOT
CAKE...

BYE...



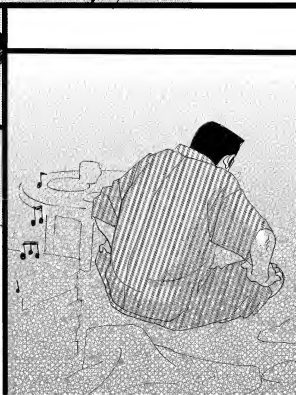
AND
THAT'S
THE END
OF
THINGS!

THAT'S A
GOOD
ENOUGH
REASON TO
GET OUT
OF BED
TOMORROW.

THE GIRL
I HELPED
IS REALLY
NICE!

ONG!

G



I KNEW
IT!

OH...

SORRY, I
FORGOT MY
PHONE...

THIS IS
YAMATO,
FROM
EARLIER.

HELLO?

WHOSE
PINK
PHONE
IS THIS?

SUNA'S
...?

REALLY?

THEN WHY
DON'T WE
MEET UP?

LET'S
MEET IN
FRONT
OF THE
FOUNTAIN
AT SHISUTA
PARK!

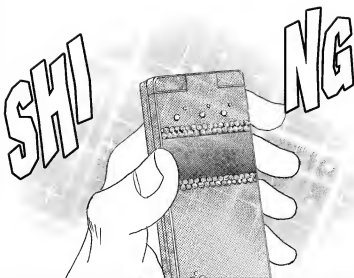
I GO TO
KOIZUMI
GIRLS'
ACADEMY,
SO...

JUST NAME
THE PLACE
AND I'LL
BRING IT
TO YOU.

I'LL COME
PICK IT UP.
WHAT DAY
WOULD BE
GOOD FOR
YOU?

OH...
YEAH, IT'S
HERE AT
MY PLACE.

I'M SO
SORRY!



THAT'S
NOT THE
END OF
THINGS...!

...PROBABLY
THINKS
SUNA AND I
ARE BOTH
COMING.

WE
WERE
TOGETHER
THE OTHER
TWO TIMES.

THAT GIRL...
YAMATO...

HM...

WHAT'S WITH
THE CELL
PHONE?

THAT GIRL
FROM
YESTERDAY
FORGOT IT.

THAT'S
WHAT
A MAN
DOES!

UH...
WHY AM I
GOING?

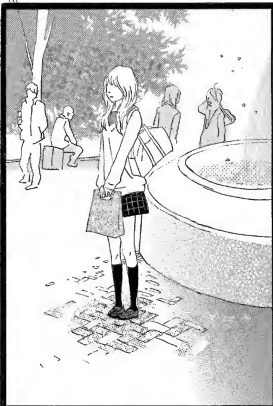
JUST
COME
WITH ME.

I'M GOING
TO RETURN IT
RIGHT NOW!
LET'S GO!

DON'T
WORRY!
I'LL
BRING
HIM WITH
ME!



OH!



YOU'RE
ACTING
FORMAL
TOO.

FRESH-
MEN IN
HIGH
SCHOOL.

WE'RE
PROBABLY
THE SAME
AGE.

NO NEED
TO BE SO
FORMAL.

BOW

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

I'M SO
SORRY FOR
THE TROUBLE!

BOW

DO YOU WANNA
FIND SOMEWHERE
TO SIT AND EAT IT
TOGETHER?

JUST A LITTLE
SOMETHING FOR
RETURNING MY
PHONE TO ME.

THIS IS A
"THANK YOU"
FOR TODAY...



U-UM,
HERE...





IS IT
LOVE
...?

AND WHY
IS SHE
SWEATING
?

WHY DOES
SHE KEEP
BLUSHING?

DOES
SHE LIKE
SUNA THAT
MUCH?

YOU'RE
STARING. AND
YOU'RE IN HER
PERSONAL
SPACE.

OKAY...

I'M
GOING
TO THE
BATH-
ROOM!

...

WHY WON'T
MY HEART
DO WHAT
I TELL IT
TO?

...REACT
THE WAY I
WISH THEY
WOULD?

WHY DON'T
GIRLS...

F
S
S
S
H



WHY?

DO
I NEED
MORE
PRACTICE?



I
CAN'T HELP
FALLING IN
LOVE...

AND
IT'S NOT
OKAY TO
DO THAT.

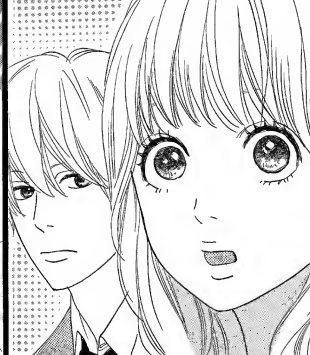
...BUT IT
BOTHERS
PEOPLE.





I'VE GOT A
HANDKER-
CHIEF!

YOUR
HEAD'S
ALL
WET...



...



I'D
FEEL SO
BAD...

YOU
SHOULD
BE DRYING
YOURSELF.

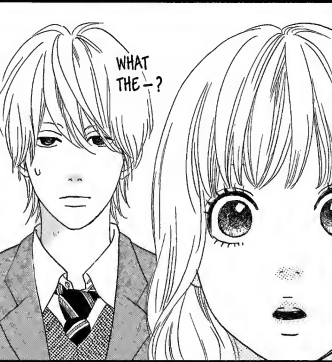


YOU
KNOW...

I WANT TO
HELP HER
OUT IF I
CAN.

I'D
FEEL
REALLY
BAD.

...IF
YAMATO
GOT HER
HEART
BROKEN.



WHAT
THE-?

I'D LOVE
TO TRY
MORE
KINDS OF
CAKE.

WOULD
YOU MAKE
ME MORE
SOMETIME?



N O D

**REALLY
?!**

THEN
I'LL
MAKE
THAT
NEXT
TIME!

DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
WHAT THAT
IS?

YEAH, I LOVE
ZASHERTURTL.

ANOTHER
SPECIALTY
OF MINE IS
SACHERTORTE!

DOES
THAT
SOUND
GOOD?

...IS AS FAR
AS THINGS
CAN GO, I'M
FINE WITH
THAT.

IF
THIS...

SEE
YOU!

THAT
GIRL
TOLD
ME...

... SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN USE A
HAND MIXER
WHEN SHE
BAKES.

REALLY?

NO
KIDDING.
THAT'S
UNUSUAL,
HUH?

SHE LIKES
PUTTING IN THE
EFFORT TO
BLEND IT ALL
HERSELF.





SHE...

...SEEMS
LIKE A NICE
GIRL.



TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
THIS
IS—

I'VE
NEVER...

...HEARD
SUNA
COMPLIMENT
A GIRL
BEFORE.

WHAM!



**SHE'S
FRANTIC...**

TELL ME...
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS...

I DIDN'T
GET YOUR
EMAIL
ADDRESS
...

I'D
NEED TO
CONTACT
YOU...



SHUP

SHE
RAN SO
HARD...

...THAT
SHE'S
DRIPPING
WITH
SWEAT.



TAKE
IT.

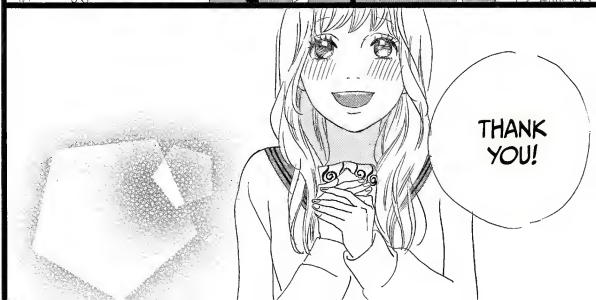
OH!

AM I ALL
SWEATY
?!

IS IT
BAD?

I'M FINE!
IT'LL DRY
UP!

THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING...



OKAY, I'VE
DECIDED.

SHE MUST
REALLY
LIKE HIM!

I'VE
GOT
HER
BACK
ON
THIS!

I'M
GOING
TO HELP
AS MUCH
AS I
CAN.

YOU CARRY
AROUND A
HANDKERCHIEF,
HUH?

MY MOM
LIKES
THEM.

BUT...

SO
DON'T YOU
WORRY!



I'VE
KNOWN
HIM FOR
OVER TEN
YEARS...

...I
NEVER
TALK
ABOUT
GIRLS
WITH
SUNA.

...BUT I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT HE
LOOKS
FOR IN A
GIRL.



I'M
COMING
IN, SUNA!

KAÇ
HAK!



*A FAMOUS JAPANESE GIRL IDOL GROUP

**CHARACTERS FROM THE ANIME SERIES MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM

...WHO?

MAIN-CHAN OR
SUI-CHAN*?

UH...
SPORTS
...?

OKAY, THEN...
DO YOU PREFER
GIRLS WHO LIKE
MUSIC OR GIRLS
WHO ARE INTO
SPORTS?

I CAN'T
FIGURE YOU
OUT!

WHAT'S WITH
THE BIZARRE
OPTIONS?

GIRLS WHO
LIKE SPORTS,
HUH?

WHICH
ONE
WOULD
YAMATO
BE?!

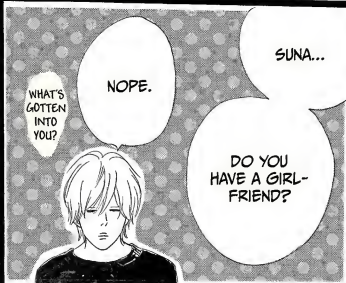
WELL...

YOU'RE
REALLY EASY
TO FIGURE
OUT.



...IS THAT SHE
SMILES AND IS
FRIENDLY AND
CUTE.

ALL THAT
REALLY
MATTERS...



WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
YOU?

NOPE.

SUNA...

DO YOU
HAVE A GIRL-
FRIEND?

...



DON'T
YOU WANT
TO DATE
SOMEONE
?!

WHY?!
YOU'RE
POPULAR,
RIGHT?!



HE'S
RIGHT.



I
JUST...

...DON'T
REALLY
CARE THAT
MUCH.



**THINKING
OF THINGS
TO DO
WITH THEM
IS THE FUN
PART!**

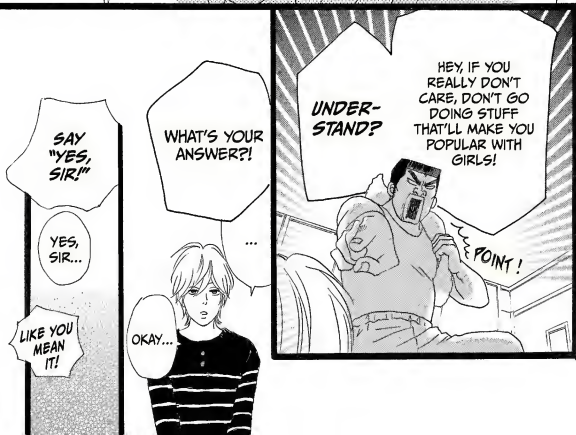
IF I
WAS DATING
SOMEONE, I'D
HAVE TO THINK
OF THINGS
TO DO WITH
THEM.



...I DO,
YES.



DON'T YOU
HAVE ANY
BALLS?



Subject: Hello! ☺

WHAT'S
WITH THIS
MESSAGE?

IT'S SO
COLORFUL...

It's Rinko! 🍎

I baked a 🍰 ✨
sachertorte! 🍷 🍷

Can you meet
me tomorrow?? 🐾

BZZZZZZ
BZZZZZZ

Anytime

is fine. 👍

Sent

IT'S
ANIMATED
!!!!

Yay! 🥳🥳🌟

THANKS 🚗

Can I call
you Takeo 🐾??

Sent!

Sure. And
I'll call you
Yamato. 👍

SO...



DON'T
ASK
QUESTIONS.

JUST BE
YOURSELF.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



WHY AM
I COMING
WITH YOU
AGAIN?

MARCH MARCH

MARCH

...LEAVE
THIS TO
ME!

JUST...



THIS IS
FRICKIN'
AWESOME!!



HEY.

OH!

HELLO.



YOU
COMPARING
ME TO
ONE?

AW, I'M
TOUCHED.

SUMO
WRESTLERS
EXERCISE
TOO.

I
EXERCISE,
SO IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

YOU'RE
GONNA
GET FAT.

YOU
SURE
CAN
EAT.

IT'S THE
BEST
CHOCOLATE
CAKE I'VE
EVER HAD!



SUNA'S
SMOOTH, AS
ALWAYS...



I'M GOING
TO GET
SOMETHING
TO DRINK.

OH!
SORRY,
I DIDN'T
THINK
ABOUT
THAT.

WHAT DO YOU
WANT? I'LL GET
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.



NAH,
I'M
GOOD.

I CAN GO
WITH YOU—



HE WAS SO GOOD THAT MY MOM AND THE OTHER PARENTS CRIED.

SUNA PLAYED THE BLUE OGRE WITH A TALENT BEYOND OUR YEARS.

HEH...

...AND ENDED UP WETTING MY PANTS DURING CLEANING TIME.

DURING OUR FIRST YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM...

RED OGRE LOOKS STRONG...

HA HA HA!

AAGH!

AAGH!

AND I KIND OF ACTED LIKE AN IDIOT.

AAGH!
AAGH!

OH NOOOO!



...AND NO ONE EVER FOUND OUT.

...BUT AFTERWARD, WE POURED BUCKETS OF WATER OVER OUR HEADS...

SUNA BURST OUT LAUGHING...

WHEN I
START
TALKING
ABOUT
HOW
GREAT
SUNA
IS...

...BUT THEN
HE GAVE ME
MORE THAN
HALF OF HIS
OWN LUNCH.

SUNA
LAUGHED
REALLY
HARD...

ON A FIELD
TRIP, I GOT
OVEREXCITED
AND DROPPED
MY LUNCH.

OH...
REALLY?

SUNA LIKES
GIRLS WHO
ARE INTO
SPORTS! HE'S
INTERESTED
IN GIRLS!

HE
DOESN'T
HAVE A
GIRL-
FRIEND!

...IT INVOLVES
TELLING
EMBARRASSING
STORIES ABOUT
MYSELF.

OH!
THAT'S
THE
PRIZE!

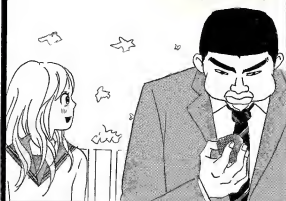
HM? THAT
BITE DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE
CHOCOLATE
...

WHAT ELSE
CAN I SAY?
HOW ELSE
CAN I HELP
HIM?

...



NOD!



DO YOU THINK
I COULD...
BAKE FOR YOU
AGAIN?



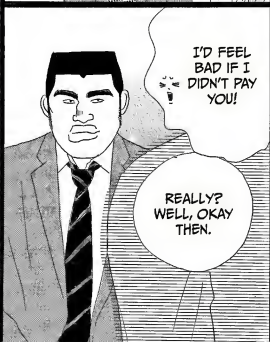
YOU DON'T
NEED TO.
I MEAN, YOU
BAKED FOR
US AND ALL.

I'LL
PAY YOU
BACK.



I'D FEEL
BAD IF I
DIDN'T PAY
YOU!

REALLY?
WELL, OKAY
THEN.



OH!

THANK
YOU.

THANKS,
SUNA!



THANKS
FOR THE
CAKE.

BYE.

YOU TWO
LOOK
GOOD
TOGETHER!

AHH...

...TO ASK WHAT
KIND OF CAKES
YOU LIKE...?

IS IT ALL
RIGHT IF I
EMAIL YOU...

UM...

THAT'D
BE FINE!

OH...

I
TOTALLY
GET IT,
YAMATO!





YAMATO!

YAMATO

AAAH!!



IS THAT
WHY I'M
NEVER
THE
PRINCE?

IS THAT
WHY I
MESS
UP?



I WENT
STRAIGHT
FOR THE
BEAM, NOT
THE GIRL.

WELL,
THAT'S
OKAY.



...AND
THAT'S
WHAT
MATTERS.

YAMATO'S
GOING TO
BE SAFE...

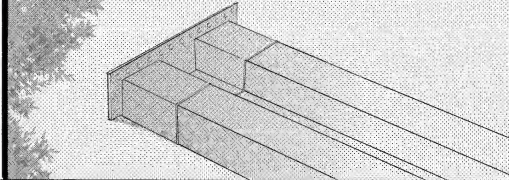


IF HE
WASN'T
HERE, WE'D
BE DEAD.

BE
CAREFUL!

I'M
ACTUALLY
...

...PRETTY
STRONG,
YOU KNOW!



T U P !





TAKEO.



THAT'S
NOT A
PERSON.

GOOD
EVENING.



YOU'RE
GONNA GET
YOURSELF
KILLED!



WATCH OUT
FOR THAT
POLE.



OLD-
MAN
FACE.

PIG-
GORILLA.

HEY,
TAKEO.



ARE YOU
STUCK?



THAT
CAKE...



OH!



TAKEO...



I'D LIKE TO
SEE YOU
ONE-ON-
ONE.

UM... NEXT
TIME WE GET
TOGETHER,
COULD YOU
MAYBE COME
WITHOUT
SUNAKAWA?



OKAY,
SURE.

AND
THERE
IT IS.

SHE'S GONNA
ASK FOR
ADVICE ABOUT
WINNING
SUNA'S HEART.

HUH...?



UM...

...OR IS
SHE EVEN
CUTER
THAN
USUAL?

AM I
IMAGIN-
ING IT...



...

WHAT
IS IT?

ER...

THIS IS CAKE
TOO, BUT IT'S
SAVORY.

W-WELL, I
ALWAYS BRING
CAKE, SO I
THOUGHT I'D
CHANGE THINGS
UP A LITTLE.

SHE
REPEATED
HERSELF.

IT'S SALTY,
SO IT'S NOT
GOING TO BE
SWEET!

IT'S SALTY,
SO DON'T
EXPECT IT TO
BE SWEET!

OKAY,
I'LL TRY
IT.



YOU
ALWAYS...

...EAT
SO MUCH OF
MY BAKING...
IT MAKES ME
REALLY HAPPY.

MMM...
IT'S
REALLY
GREAT!



UM...

TAKEO...

WELL...





IT WAS
THOUGHTFUL
OF SUNA
TO BUY US
DRINKS LAST
TIME, HUH!



I
BROUGHT
TEA THIS
TIME!

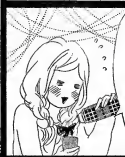
OH!



HE DOESN'T
HAVE A GIRL-
FRIEND...

...AND HE
COMPLIMENTED
YOU!

YAMATO...



YEAH, SUNA
IS PRETTY
THOUGHTFUL...



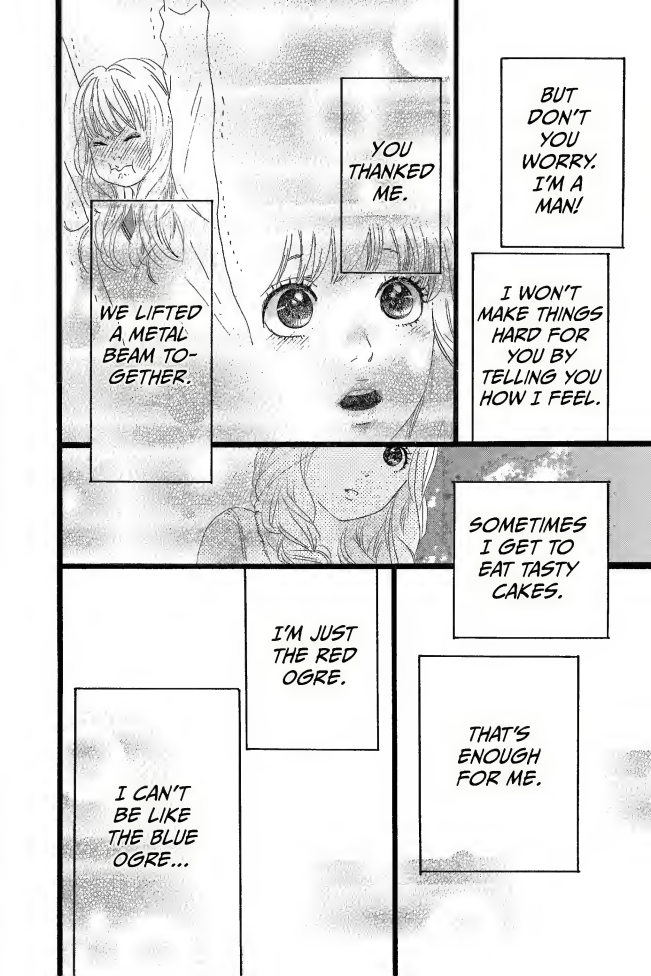
HE'D NEVER,
EVER CHEAT
ON ANYONE.

YOU'VE GOT
MY WORD ON
THAT!

...HOW
PEOPLE
FEEL.

HE'S A
GREAT
GUY.

YOU CAN'T
CHANGE...



YOU
THANKED
ME.

BUT
DON'T
YOU
WORRY.
I'M A
MAN!

WE LIFTED
A METAL
BEAM TO-
GETHER.

I WON'T
MAKE THINGS
HARD FOR
YOU BY
TELLING YOU
HOW I FEEL.

SOMETIMES
I GET TO
EAT TASTY
CAKES.

I'M JUST
THE RED
OGRE.

THAT'S
ENOUGH
FOR ME.

I CAN'T
BE LIKE
THE BLUE
OGRE...

**I WANT
THEM...**

**...TO BE
ABLE TO
SMILE.**

**I WANT
PEOPLE
WHO ARE
IN LOVE...**

**...TO BE
HAPPY.**





I-I'M
SORRY...

I GOT
DUST IN
MY EYE...

A
LOT OF
IT...

NO, I MEAN,
ONE OF MY
CONTACTS IS
HURTING...



SORRY, I
HAVE TO GO
HOME.

SORRY!

WHY...?

WHY WAS
SHE...

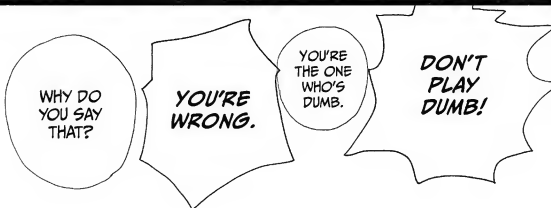
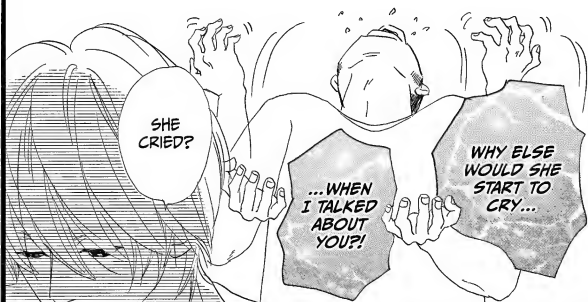
...CRYING?

SLAM

**DID
YOU DO
SOME-
THING TO
YAMATO
?!**

NOPE.

HIGH SCHOOL MATH





**YOU'RE
COOL,
SUNA!!**

**BECAUSE
YOU'RE
COOL!!**



THANKS.

...



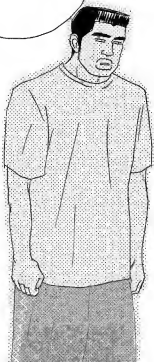
DON'T
WORRY.



YOU'RE
COOL
TOO.



YAMATO
SAID
YOU'RE
COOL.



...LOOK.
KEEPING QUIET
ABOUT THIS IS
A PAIN, SO I'M
JUST GONNA
COME CLEAN,
OKAY?



WELL, WHILE
YOU WERE
GONE, SHE
SAID A LOT OF
STUFF.

WHEN WE
WERE AT
THE PARK TO
RETURN HER
PHONE...



...YOU WENT TO
THE BATHROOM,
REMEMBER?

DOES YOUR
FRIEND HAVE
A GIRL-
FRIEND?

UM...



NOPE,
NO GIRL-
FRIEND.

I GUESS
HE MUST.
HE'S SO
COOL!

REALLY?

TRUST
ME, HE'D
NEVER
KEEP IT
SECRET.

NO WAY!
REALLY?!

REALLY.





HE WAS
SO COOL
YESTERDAY...

I CAN'T
HELP
MYSELF!

...IS IT OKAY
THAT I LIKE
HIM?

THEN...

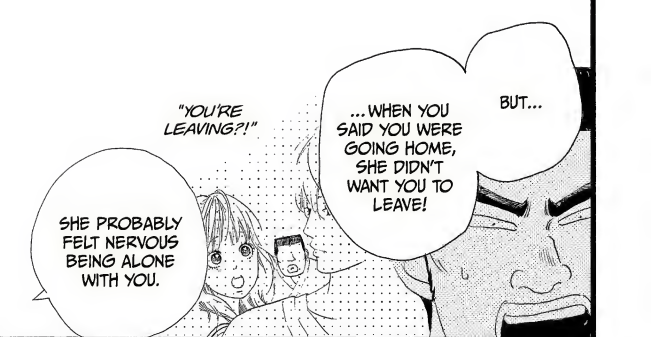


WHAT GIRL
WOULDN'T
FALL FOR
HIM?



ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?

WAS SHE
TALKING
ABOUT
YOU?



"YOU'RE
LEAVING?!"

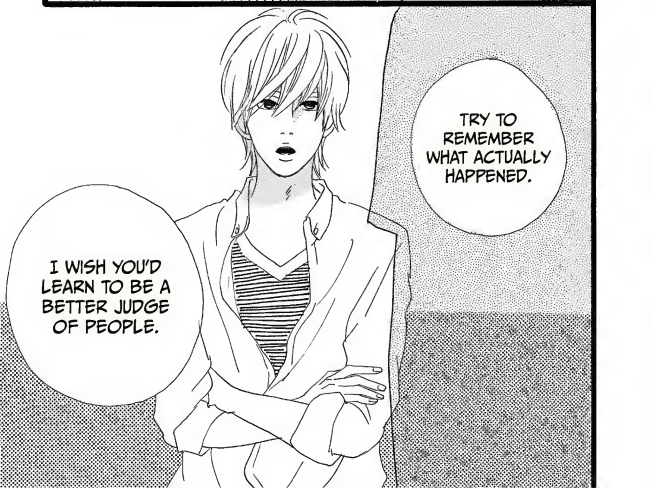
SHE PROBABLY
FELT NERVOUS
BEING ALONE
WITH YOU.

...WHEN YOU
SAID YOU WERE
GOING HOME,
SHE DIDN'T
WANT YOU TO
LEAVE!

BUT...

AND YOU WERE
STARING AT HER,
SO IT WAS KINDA
HARD TO CATCH
YOUR EYE.

BUT SHE KEPT
LOOKING AT
YOU!



I WISH YOU'D
LEARN TO BE A
BETTER JUDGE
OF PEOPLE.

TRY TO
REMEMBER
WHAT ACTUALLY
HAPPENED.

YAMATO
LIKES
ME?

SHE
LIKES
ME?

...

THERE'S
NO WAY I'M
BUYING THAT.

WHEN
I'M WITH
HER, ALL SHE
TALKS ABOUT
IS HOW MUCH
SHE LIKES
YOU.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS HAD
TERRIBLE
TASTE IN GIRLS
BEFORE.

YOU SAID
SHE'S A
NICE GIRL.
DOESN'T
THAT MEAN
YOU LIKE
HER?

SHE
IS A NICE
GIRL.

YOU REALLY
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO READ
PEOPLE.

NO WAY!
GROSS!

HIS
FACE
IS
HUGE!

I THINK
TAKED
LIKES
YOU.

HE'S SO
LOUD AND
ANNOYING!

...USED TO
BADMOUTH
YOU BEHIND
YOUR BACK.

ALL THE
GIRLS YOU
LIKED...

NOBODY...

...WOULD
GO OUT WITH
A GIRL WHO
TALKS CRAP
ABOUT HIS
FRIEND.

SHOCK

THAT REALLY
HAPPENED?!

...

YOU
DEFINITELY
HAVE THEM.

I'M SORRY
I SAID YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
BALLS!

SUNA,
YOU'RE A
REAL MAN!

YEAH, I
DO.



WELL, YEAH...
AFTER
HEARING YOUR
INTERPRETATION
OF THINGS...

BUT I STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT YAMATO
LIKES ME.

A GIRL
NAMED
YAMATO IS
HERE TO
SEE YOU.

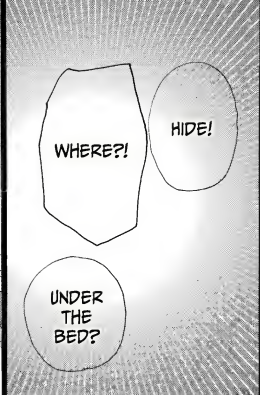
*KNOCK
KNOCK!*

ARE YOU
FREE?

!!!



YOU
SURE ARE
HUGE.



WHERE?!

HIDE!

UNDER
THE
BED?



HI...



HAVE A
SEAT.

HI.

HE WAS
SO UPSET.
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO!

WHAT DO I
DO? WHAT
SHOULD I
TELL HIM?

I CRIED IN
FRONT OF
TAKEO!

WHY'D YOU
CRY?

S-
SUNAKAWA...

IT HURT SO
MUCH...

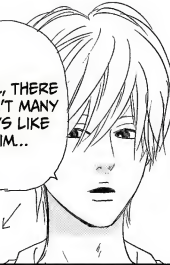
I THOUGHT
MAYBE HE
WAS
LETTING ME
DOWN GENTLY.

HE ALWAYS
TALKS ABOUT
YOU...

I-I FELT LIKE
HE WAS TRYING
TO SET ME UP
WITH YOU.

SO WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA DO
ABOUT IT?

GIVE
UP?



WELL, THERE
AREN'T MANY
GUYS LIKE
HIM...



I DON'T THINK
I'LL EVER
MEET ANYONE
ELSE LIKE
TAKEO.

N-NO...
I WANT TO
GIVE THIS MY
BEST SHOT...



COULD
YOU SAY
THAT AGAIN,
PLEASE?

I
REALLY
LIKE
HIM.

I LIKE
HIM SO
MUCH...



SEE? NOW
COME OUT AND
TELL HER HOW
YOU FEEL.



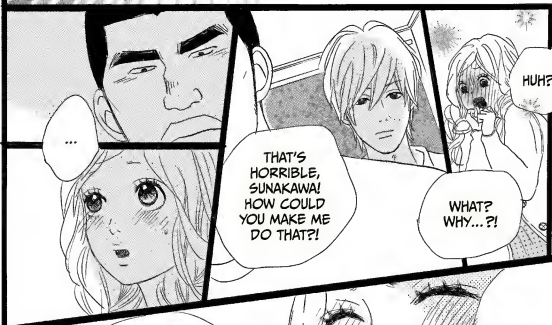
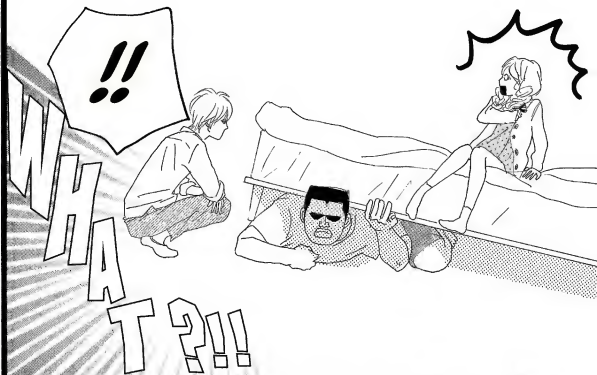
**I LOVE
TAKEO!**



?

**I
LOVE
HIM!**

WHO?



THAT'S
HORRIBLE,
SUNAKAWA!
HOW COULD
YOU MAKE ME
DO THAT?!

WHAT?
WHY...?!

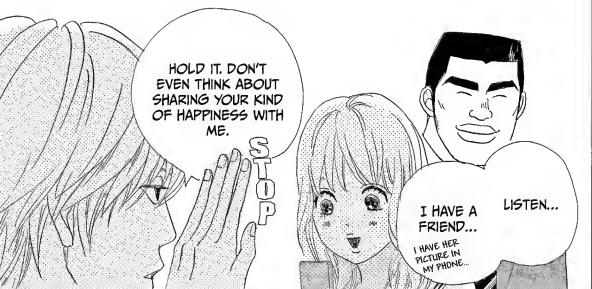
HUH?!

I'VE LOVED
YOU SINCE
WE MET!!

I'M IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU...









...WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

**SUNA!
YOU
REALLY
ARE LIKE
THE BLUE
OGRE!**

THE PLAY
WE DID IN
PRESCHOOL!!

I DON'T
REMEMBER
THAT...

YOUR
PERFORMANCE
AS A TRUE
FRIEND MADE
ALL THE MOMS
CRY!!

YOU'RE THE
BLUE OGRE,
AND I'M THE
RED OGRE!



WELL...

OOH...
WHAT'S
THE STORY
ABOUT?

...BUT THE HUMANS WERE TOO SCARED OF HIM. THEY ALL AVOIDED HIM.

THE RED OGRE WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE HUMANS...

ONCE UPON A TIME, THE KIND RED OGRE LIVED IN THE MOUNTAINS ALL ALONE.

IF THE RED OGRE DID THAT, THEN THE HUMANS WOULD THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT HIM AND BECOME HIS FRIEND.



HE'D RAMPAGE THROUGH THE VILLAGE SO THAT THE RED OGRE COULD DEFEAT HIM.

HIS FRIEND THE BLUE OGRE NOTICED HOW DEPRESSED HE WAS, SO HE CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA—



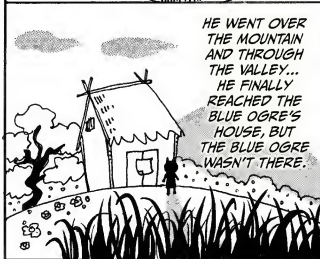
THE BLUE OGRE PRETENDED TO BE DEFEATED AND RAN AWAY.



THE BLUE OGRE WENT TO THE VILLAGE AND RAN WILD, ALL WHILE TRYING NOT TO HURT THE HUMANS. THE RED OGRE PRETENDED TO DEFEAT HIM.



AFTER THAT,
THE VILLAGERS
TRUSTED THE
RED OGRE, AND
HE WAS ABLE TO
VISIT THEM.
HE MADE HUMAN
FRIENDS AND
HAD A HAPPY
LIFE.



HE WENT OVER
THE MOUNTAIN
AND THROUGH
THE VALLEY...
HE FINALLY
REACHED THE
BLUE OGRE'S
HOUSE, BUT
THE BLUE OGRE
WASN'T THERE.



BUT ONE DAY,
THE RED OGRE
WONDERED
WHERE THE BLUE
OGRE HAD GONE.
HE HADN'T SEEN
HIS FRIEND SINCE
THAT DAY IN THE
VILLAGE, SO HE
DECIDED TO GO
VISIT HIM.

IT SAID THAT
SINCE THE RED OGRE
HAD BECOME FRIENDS
WITH HUMANS, THE BLUE
OGRE HAD TO STAY
AWAY FROM HIM,
OR IT WOULD
MAKE THE HUMANS
SUSPICIOUS.

THAT'S
WHY HE LEFT
WITHOUT
SAYING A
WORD...

THE BLUE OGRE
HAD GONE AWAY,
LEAVING BEHIND A
LETTER FOR THE
RED OGRE...

A
LETTER?



**I
KNOW,
RIGHT
?!**

**YEAH! I
DON'T KNOW
IF I COULD
GO THAT
FAR FOR A
FRIEND.**

**RIGHT?!
BUT ISN'T IT
AMAZING?!
ISN'T THE BLUE
OGRE SUCH A
WONDERFUL
GUY?!**

**THAT'S SO
SAAAAD...!**

**SUNA'S
INCRED-
IBLE!!**

**HE'S
INCRED-
IBLE!!**

**THE
BLUE
OGRE
IS TOO
KIND!!**



**I DUNNO...
THAT SOUNDS
PRETTY
REASONABLE
TO ME.**



**I MEAN, THE
OGRES WERE
FRIENDS,
WEREN'T THEY?**



EVERYBODY
WANTS TO SEE
THEIR FRIENDS
HAPPY.

THAT'S
NORMAL.

IT'S NOT
AMAZING AT
ALL.

SUNA...

*I
GUESS
YOU'VE
BEEN...*

*...WATCHING
MY BACK...*

SUNA!

*...AND
KEEPING
AN EYE
OUT FOR
ME...*





**...ALL
ALONG!**



**FRIENDSHIP,
HUH?**

**PEOPLE
HAVE
ALWAYS
ASKED
ME...**



**A
FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN
MEN!**

...WHY
WE'RE
FRIENDS.



YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I
HAVE TO
SAY...

...IT ISN'T JUST
BECAUSE WE
USED TO LIVE
NEXT DOOR TO
EACH OTHER.





HELLO, THIS IS ARUKO!



I'm illustrating a story by Kazune Kawahara, whom I admire tremendously. Yay! ♪♪

After taking a closer look, the art in the first chapter seems overdone. I was like, "What?!" 

I was trying to portray a wonderful story... I had a lot of fun doing it! The fun part about it was drawing macho men. When I draw a manly guy's face, I make the same expression myself.

How strange!



Yamato and Sunakawa are good people. And if I had a macho guy

for a boyfriend, I'd be totally happy. Or a macho son would be fine too... And if I had a macho dad, that would be amazing! Kawahara Sensei is soooo macho for creating a character like that! ✧✧

Those are the things that went through my head as I drew. Kawahara Sensei, thank you for giving me free rein to draw these guys. And to my editor, TSGWR, thank you for letting me collaborate on this story. And to all of the readers, thank you so much!

Volume 2 is coming out soon!

Look forward to it! (I know I am.)



Grateful
dance!

Aruko



MY love **STORY!!**







I'M A
FIRST-YEAR
STUDENT
IN HIGH
SCHOOL!

I'M
TAKEO
GODA.

TAKEO!

HE'S
MY BEST
FRIEND.

AND THIS
GUY'S
MAKOTO
SUNAKAWA.





...I FELL
FOR A
GIRL WHO
LIKES ME
BACK!

BUT THIS
TIME...

...FOR
THE
VERY
FIRST
TIME...

SHE'S
MY FIRST
GIRLFRIEND
EVER.



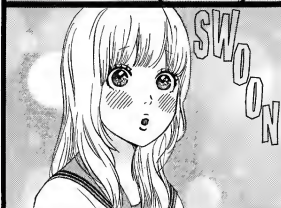
SORRY
I'M LATE!

YAMATO!





I DIDN'T
WANT TO
KEEP YOU
WAITING.



I LOVE
HERRR.

I HAVE A
HANDKERCHIEF,
BUT IT WON'T
BE MUCH
HELP.

YOU
SHOULD'VE
GONE HOME
TO CHANGE.



SUNA!
YOU'RE A
GENIUS!

IGNORING
THEM.

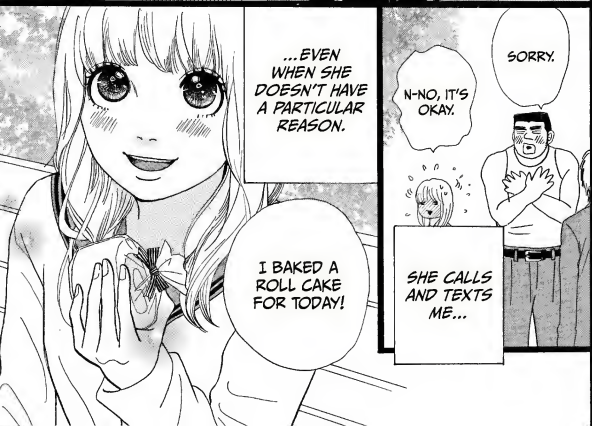
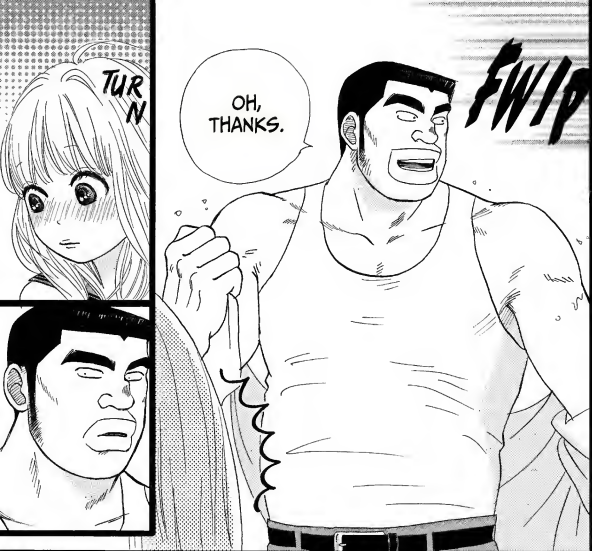
YEAH!
YOU'RE
SO
SMART!

HERE,
I HAVE A
JACKET
YOU CAN
BORROW.



!

YOU
COULD'VE
JUST CALLED
OR TEXTED
HER.



THAT'S
WHAT SHE
DOES.

THIS
ONE HAS
A WHOLE
STRAW-
BERRY
IN IT!
I PUT
BANANAS
IN THE
BATTER
FOR THIS
ONE!

A FRIEND
ASKED
ME TO
MAKE
THIS.

I DON'T
KNOW
HOW GOOD
IT IS...

SHE
BAKES
CAKES
FOR ME
EVEN
WHEN IT'S
NOT MY
BIRTHDAY.

AW, YOU
SAY EVERYTHING
TASTES GOOD.

IT'S
GOOD!

YEAH.

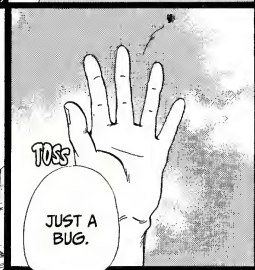
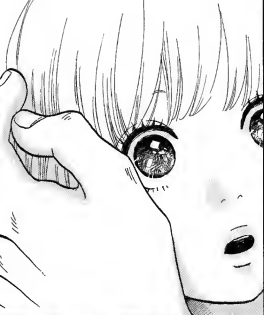
BECAUSE
IT'S TRUE!
RIGHT,
SUNA?

I DON'T
DO ANY-
THING
SPECIAL
...

GLANCE

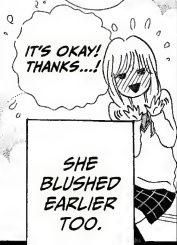
THAT'S
WHAT
SHE
DOES.

...BUT
SHE
SMILES
SO
HAPPILY
AT ME.





I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
TOUCHED
YOU.



IT'S OKAY!
THANKS....!

SHE
BLUSHED
EARLIER
TOO.



SHE'S NOTHING LIKE MY
MOM—SHE USED TO BE
AN AMATEUR
WRESTLING
QUEEN



SHE'S SO
INNOCENT!



I'M
GONNA
WALK
YAMATO
HOME.



WELL....



I MAKE
SURE YOU
WASH THAT
JACKET.

OKAY.

HE'S SO
CONSIDERATE,
GIVING ME AND
YAMATO SOME
ALONE TIME!

I'M
HEADING
HOME.



YOU'RE
RIGHT!

THE STARS
ARE REALLY
PRETTY
TONIGHT...

ISN'T THAT
THE LONG
WAY?

WANT TO GO
THROUGH THE
PARK, TAKEO?



AND SINCE
IT'S DARK, YOU
CAN SEE THEM
CLEARLY.



THEY'RE
BEAUTIFUL!

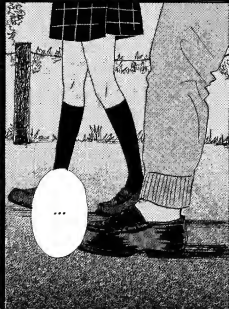


W-WE'RE ALL
ALONE...



NO ONE
ELSE IS
AROUND...

YEAH,
IT'S
QUIET,
HUH!



...



I WON'T LAY A
FINGER ON YOU
UNTIL WE'RE
OLDER!

SO DON'T
WORRY!



DON'T WORRY,
YAMATO!

HUH?

GOOD
NIGHT.

I'M
GOING TO
PROTECT
HER...

...WITH MY
BODY AND
SOUL.

OH...
OKAY...
THANKS...

SUNAKAWA

THE
MOON IS
BEAUTIFUL
TOO...

I'M
GOING
TO TAKE
CARE OF
HER.

701

SUNAKAWA

TODAY
WAS A
GOOD
DAY.

K.A.
CHAK



I CAUGHT
THE EVENING
BULLET TRAIN. I
BROUGHT YOU
SOMETHING!

I DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU WERE
COMING,
SIS.



SHUT

HEY, MAKOTO.
WELCOME
HOME!



HUH?

TAKEO GOT
HIMSELF A
GIRLFRIEND.

WHAT?

TAKEO HAS A
GIRLFRIEND?

WHAT
?!



WHERE'S
TAKEO?

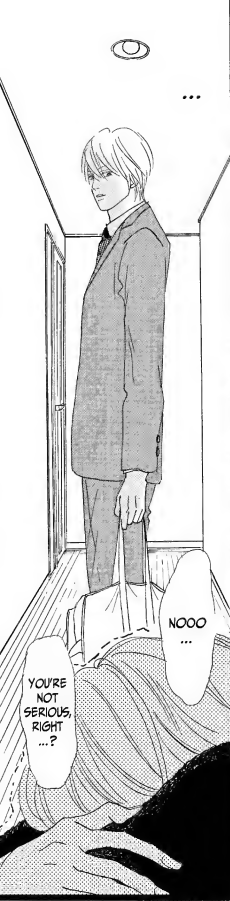
ISN'T
HE WITH
YOU?

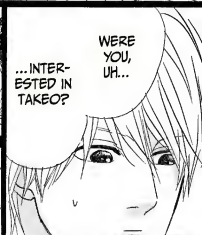
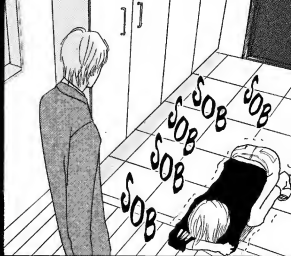
I BOUGHT
A LOT,
SO YOU
SHOULD
SHARE.

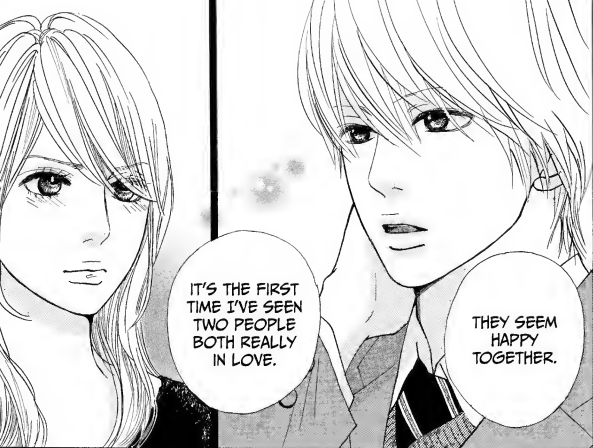


HE'S
WALKING HIS
GIRLFRIEND
HOME.

WHY DON'T
YOU CALL
HIM?

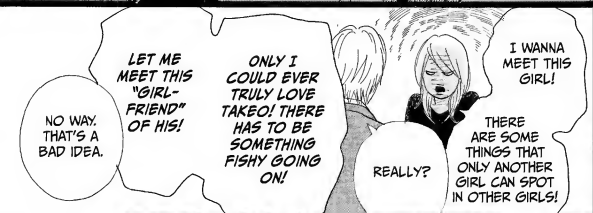






IT'S THE FIRST
TIME I'VE SEEN
TWO PEOPLE
BOTH REALLY
IN LOVE.

THEY SEEM
HAPPY
TOGETHER.



NO WAY.
THAT'S A
BAD IDEA.

LET ME
MEET THIS
"GIRL-
FRIEND"
OF HIS!

ONLY I
COULD EVER
TRULY LOVE
TAKEO! THERE
HAS TO BE
SOMETHING
FISHY GOING
ON!

REALLY?

I WANNA
MEET THIS
GIRL!

THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS THAT
ONLY ANOTHER
GIRL CAN SPOT
IN OTHER GIRLS!



ARE YOU
SURE YOU
LIKE HIM...?

DOES HE
STILL HAVE
THAT WEIRD
HAIRSTYLE
?!

I BET
TAKEO STILL
LOOKS LIKE
A DORK!

WHY?
LET ME
SEE
HER!



Message

Hi, Takeo?

There's something I want to talk
to you about.

I want to be honest with you.



Takeo! 🐾
Did you have a good time
today? 😊🐾
When are you free again??
I'll bake some cookies! 🎵

Sent!

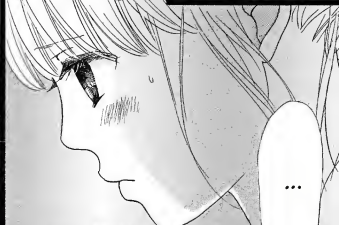
Re:
I had a lot of
fun today.
I'm free on Wednesday.



I want to be
honest with you.

I haven't been able
to tell you this,

but the truth is...





YAMATO
SEEMS SO
INNOCENT.

I THINK SHE
GETS SELF-
CONSCIOUS
WHEN WE'RE
ALONE.



HMM...

SHE'LL
RELAX
MORE IF
YOU'RE
AROUND.



WEDNESDAY
CAME...

...

WHY DO
I ALWAYS
HAVE TO TAG
ALONG?



TAKEO!

OVER HERE,
TAKEO!



OH!



GPS ?

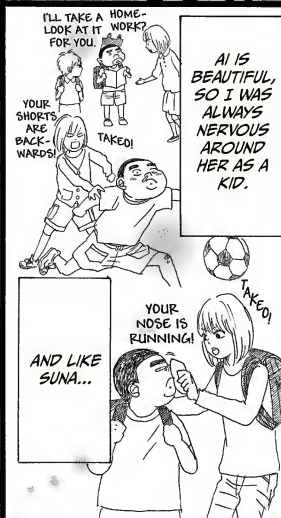
I HEAR
YOU GOT
A GIRL-
FRIEND!

HA HA HA!
HEY, LONG
TIME NO
SEE!

HEH
HEH!



OH!
HELLO!



I'LL TAKE A HOME-
LOOK AT IT WORK?
FOR YOU.

YOUR
SHORTS
ARE
BACK-
WARDS!

TAKED!

AI IS
BEAUTIFUL,
SO I WAS
ALWAYS
NERVOUS
AROUND
HER AS A
KID.

YOUR
NOSE IS
RUNNING!

TAKED!

AND LIKE
SUNA...



HI, I'M
RINKO
YAMATO.
NICE TO
MEET
YOU!

THIS IS
SUNA'S
OLDER
SISTER.



NICE
TO
MEET
YOU
TOO.

SHE'S SO
PRETTY!

YEAH.



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO TRY
SOME?

OH, I
BAKED
SOME
COOKIES!

I
GUESS
THAT'S
JUST
HOW IT
IS.

...BUT
SHE
LOVES
HIM.

SHE
CAN'T
REALLY
EXPLAIN
...

HMM...

THEY'RE
COOKIES?!

WHAT?
THESE LOOK
AMAZING!

A VERY
NICE
GIRL!

SHE'S
A NICE
GIRL.

HER
CAKES
ARE
GREAT
TOO!

YAMATO'S
SPECIALTY
IS FANCY
SWEETS.

I MADE
SOME
LANGUES
DE CHAT.

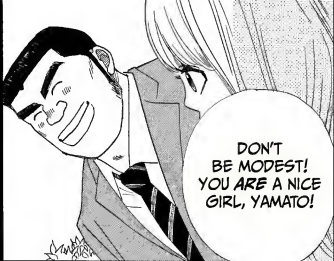
I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING
WITH ICING
LATELY.

I'M
NOT...

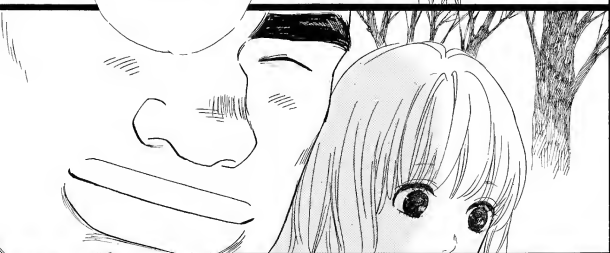
N-NO,
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.

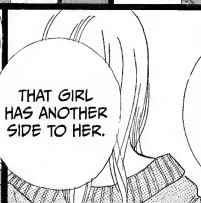
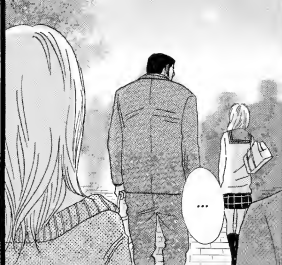
YEAH, SHE
REALLY
IS!

WOW,
YOU'RE SO
FEMININE.









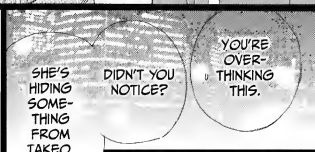
THAT GIRL
HAS ANOTHER
SIDE TO HER.



SEE?
DON'T THEY
LOOK HAPPY
TOGETHER?



THERE'S
DEFINITELY
SOMETHING
SHE'S KEEPING
FROM HIM...



SHE'S
HIDING
SOME-
THING
FROM
TAKEO.

DIDN'T YOU
NOTICE?

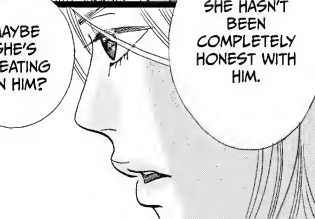
YOU'RE
OVER-
THINKING
THIS.

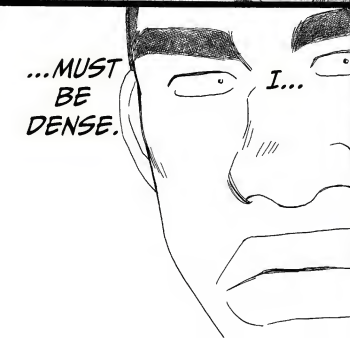
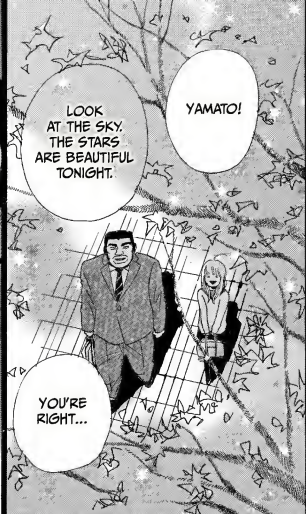


...

MAYBE
SHE'S
CHEATING
ON HIM?

SHE HASN'T
BEEN
COMPLETELY
HONEST WITH
HIM.







IT'S
NOTHING,
HUH?

SHE
SAYS IT'S
NOTHING...



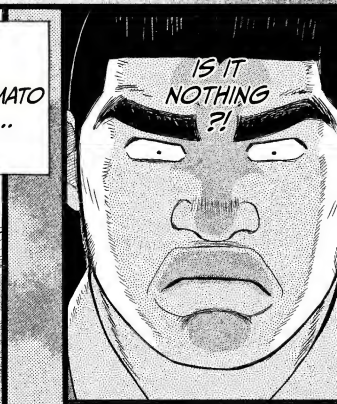
GOOD
NIGHT!

NEVER
MIND, IT'S
NOTHING!



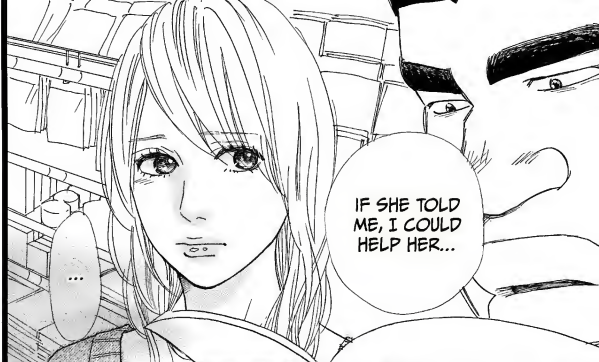
WHAT'S
WRONG?

YAMATO
...



IS IT
NOTHING
?!





IF SHE TOLD
ME, I COULD
HELP HER...



...OR
MAYBE SHE
FELL FOR
SOMEONE
ELSE.

SHE
COULD BE
CHEATING
ON YOU...



EVEN IF
IT'S THAT,
I DON'T
CARE!



MAYBE
IT'S
SOME-
THING...

...SHE
CAN'T
TELL
YOU.



THERE ARE
THINGS
YOU CAN'T
TELL YOUR
BOYFRIEND.

LOOK,
I'LL ASK
HER FOR
YOU.

WHAT MATTERS IS
THAT SOMETHING'S
BOTHERING HER
RIGHT NOW...

IT MIGHT
BE EASIER
FOR HER
TO TALK TO
ANOTHER
GIRL.

STARE

Seventeen

...

I HAD
TO DO
**SOME-
THING!**

AND
YET
YOU
READ
IT.

I THINK IT'S
WEIRD FOR
GUYS TO
READ STUFF
LIKE THAT
TOO.

DID IT
HELP?

NOT AT
ALL.

**YOU'D DO
THAT FOR
ME?!**

**SO STOP
READING
THAT!**

**THANKS!!
YOU'RE SO
NICE!**

**YOU
LOOK
LIKE A
WEIRDO!**

ARE YOU
TORMENTED
BY SOME-
THING?

Re:
I'd like
that too.
Good
night.

YAMATO...

♡♡ Good night ♡♡

Takeo, ♡
I wonder if you're looking
at the moon ☾
and the stars. ☆
I still haven't seen a
shooting star. ✨
I'd like to watch a
meteor shower with you
someday! ☆ ♡

...I
END
EVERY
SINGLE
DAY...

...I
STARTED
GOING
OUT WITH
YOU...

EVER
SINCE
...

YAMATO
...

...BY
THINKING
ABOUT WHAT
A GOOD DAY
IT WAS.

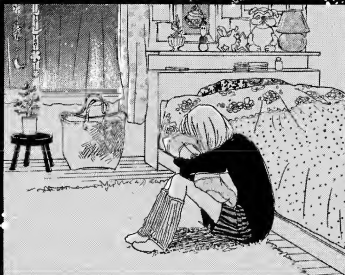
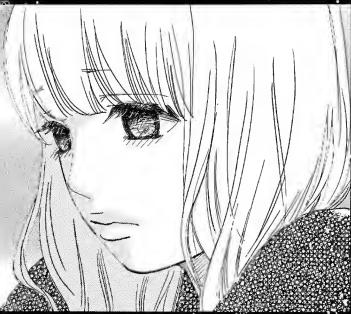
...I WANT YOU
TO BE SMILING
EVERY NIGHT
WHEN YOU GO
TO SLEEP.

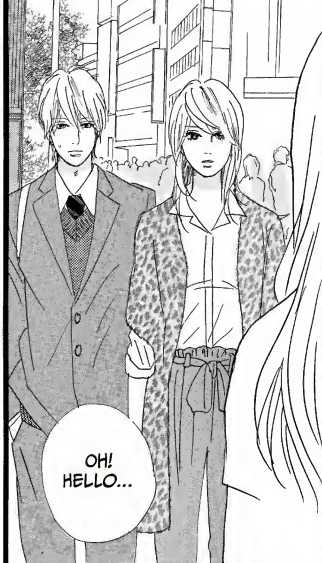
YAMATO

...

DON'T BE
TROUBLED.

MORE
THAN ANY-
THING...

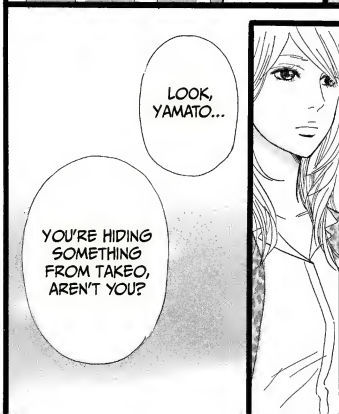




OH!
HELLO...



YAMATO?



LOOK,
YAMATO...

YOU'RE HIDING
SOMETHING
FROM TAKEO,
AREN'T YOU?

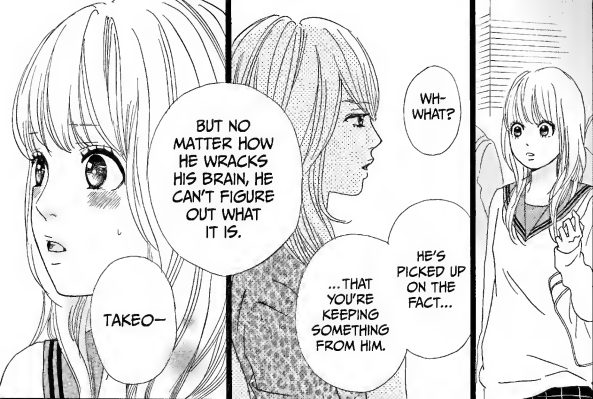


HE'S NOT
HERE.

HMM?
WHERE'S
TAKEO?



?





BUT THE
TRUTH
IS...



...YOU'RE
RIGHT.



KNEW
IT!

...NOT THE
GOOD GIRL HE
THINKS I AM.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
EXACTLY?

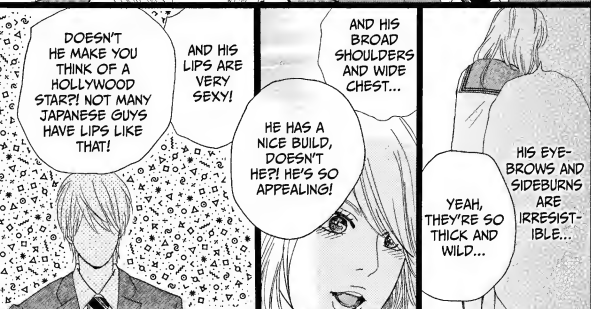


HIS SKIN'S REALLY SMOOTH.

HE GOES TO BED EARLY AND GETS UP EARLY.

YES, HE DOES.

?!



DOESN'T HE MAKE YOU THINK OF A HOLLYWOOD STAR?! NOT MANY JAPANESE GUYS HAVE LIPS LIKE THAT!

AND HIS LIPS ARE VERY SEXY!

HE HAS A NICE BUILD, DOESN'T HE?! HE'S SO APPEALING!

AND HIS BROAD SHOULDERS AND WIDE CHEST...

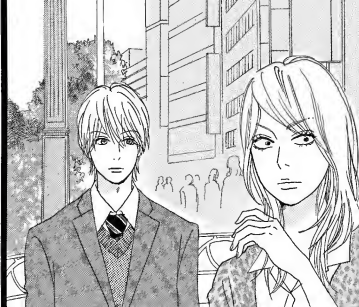
YEAH, THEY'RE SO THICK AND WILD...

HIS EYE-BROWS AND SIDEBURNS ARE IRRESISTIBLE...



I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! HE'S GOT SEXY HANDS!

THOSE BIG HANDS OF HIS MAKE MY HEART POUND...



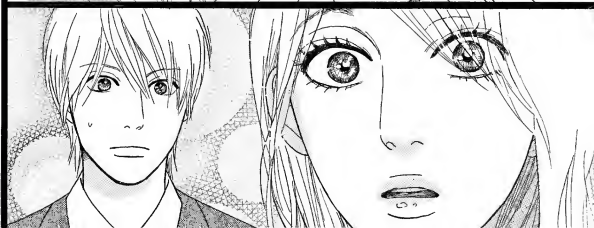
BUT...HE SAYS
HE WON'T LAY
A FINGER ON
ME UNTIL WE'RE
OLDER.

I
MEAN...

HE HAS THIS
IDEA THAT I'M
INCREDIBLY
PURE, BUT I'M
NOT.



...I WANT
HIM TO TOUCH
ME AND HOLD
MY HAND!





...
HE'LL
BE SO
TURNED
OFF—



WHENEVER
I'M WITH HIM,
I CAN'T STOP
THINKING
THINGS LIKE
THAT!

BUT
I CAN'T
TELL HIM!

IF I DO,
HE'LL
HATE
ME.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



TAKEO
ISN'T A
WUSS!
AT ALL!

LISTEN!



SURE,
HE'S DENSE,
AND HE'S A
DORK.

AND HE
ALWAYS
GETS THE
WRONG
IDEA.

HE'S THE
TYPE WHO
DOES HIS
BEST TO BE
ACCEPTING,
NO MATTER
WHAT!

HE'S NOT
THE KIND
OF GUY
WHO'D BE
PUT OFF
BY THAT!



BUT HE ALSO
SAID, "IF SHE
TOLD ME, I
COULD HELP
HER."

"IF SHE
DOESN'T TELL
ME, I WON'T
KNOW."

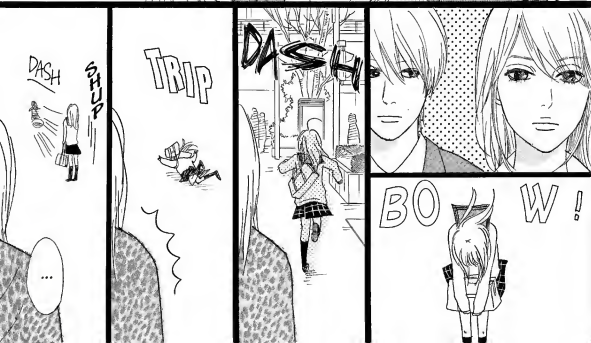
HE
SAID...



I'M HEADING
TO TAKEO'S
HOUSE RIGHT
NOW!



I...



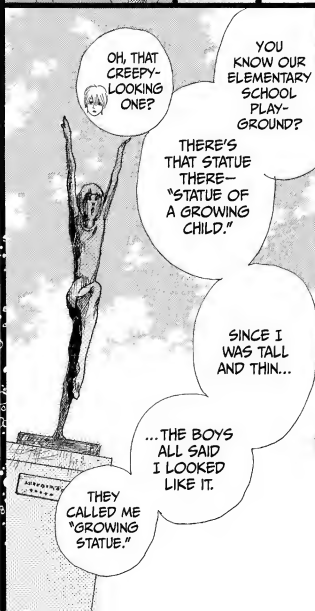


I'M
GLAD
FOR
TAKEO.



SHE
SEEMS
HAPPY.

SHE'S A
SWEET GIRL,
ISN'T SHE?



OH, THAT
CREEPY-
LOOKING
ONE?

YOU
KNOW OUR
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
PLAY-
GROUND?

THERE'S
THAT STATUE
THERE—
"STATUE OF
A GROWING
CHILD."

SINCE I
WAS TALL
AND THIN...

...THE BOYS
ALL SAID
I LOOKED
LIKE IT.

THEY
CALLED ME
"GROWING
STATUE."



WHEN DID
YOU FALL IN
LOVE WITH
HIM?



YEAH.

TAKEO!
GOING HOME
FROM
PRACTICE?

WHEN I
WAS IN
SIXTH
GRADE
AND
TAKEO
WAS IN
THIRD
GRADE...

I
HAD NO
SELF-
CONFIDENCE
BACK THEN.

HERE,
TAKE
HALF.
YOU
MUST BE
THIRSTY.

NOPE.

YEAH,
THE
GROWING
STATUE.

KNOW
WHAT YOU
LOOK
LIKE?

WHAT
IS IT?

STARE

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

HUH?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IT'S
CALLED...

I SAW IT
AT THE
FLOWER
SHOP!

...BUT
YOU LOOK
LIKE THAT
FLOWER.



I'M THAT BEAUTIFUL?

AM...
AM I THAT BEAUTIFUL?

YEAH!

THAT'S
HOW
LOVE
IS!

MAYBE IT'S
NOT A BIG
DEAL TO
ANYONE ELSE,
BUT IT'S
SPECIAL
TO ME!

YES,
THAT'S
ALL!

IS
THAT
ALL?

?



I
FIGURED
I COULD
WAIT UNTIL
HE WAS IN
COLLEGE
...

I
KNOW
THAT!

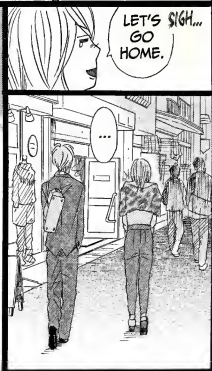
OF
COURSE
HE
WOULD.
HE'S
REALLY
COOL.

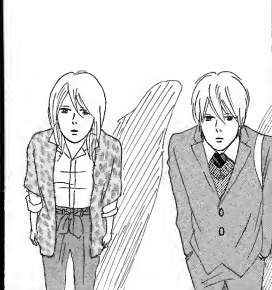
AND IT
NEVER
OCCURRED
TO ME
HE'D FIND
A GIRL-
FRIEND...!

HOW
COULD I?!
WE'RE TALK-
ING ABOUT A
THIRD GRADER
AND A SIXTH
GRADER!

WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL
HIM HOW
YOU FEEL?

WHEN I WAS
STARTING HIGH
SCHOOL, HE WAS
STARTING MIDDLE
SCHOOL!





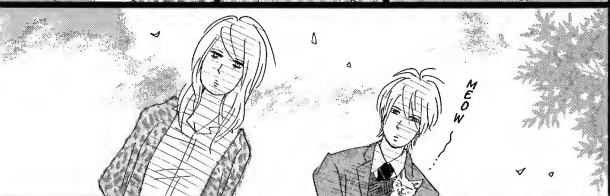
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
TAKEO?

THIS CAT
GOT STUCK
UP IN THIS
TREE...



YAMATO
WENT
TO YOUR
HOUSE.
SHE WAS
CRYING.







PROBABLY,
YEAH.



... WOULD
HE HAVE...

... COME
RUNNING
TO ME?



YOU'RE
SO LUCKY
TO HAVE BEEN
HIS FRIEND
ALL THIS
TIME!

I'M SO
JEALOUS!!
I WISH I
WERE A
GUY!

YOU'RE
BEING A
PAIN...





I'M...

...A
VERY
FAST
RUNNER.

I'M
ON
THE
JUDO
TEAM
...

...BUT IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL, I STOLE
FIRST PLACE
FROM THE TRACK
AND FIELD TEAM,
THE SOCCER
TEAM, AND THE
BASKETBALL
TEAM THREE
YEARS IN A ROW.



AND I'M
GLAD I
CAN RUN
FOR A
LONG
TIME.



I'M
GLAD
I'M
FAST.



I HAVE
STAMINA
TOO.



YAMATO!!

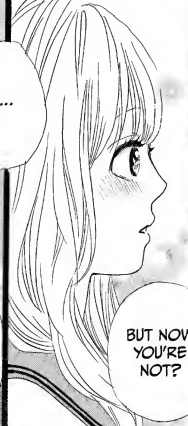
TAKEO!





YOU RAN
TO FIND
ME...?

YEAH.



BUT NOW
YOU'RE
NOT?



SUNA SAID
YOU WERE
CRYING.



SOMETHING'S
BOTHERING
YOU, RIGHT?



YAMATO...



...EVERYTHING
THAT'S ON
YOUR MIND!

PLEASE
TELL ME...



AND
SMILE!

I CAN
TAKE IT, NO
MATTER
WHAT!



THROW
IT ALL AT
ME!



I LOVE IT
WHEN YOU
SMILE!



TAKEO...



I WANT TO
HOLD HANDS
WITH YOU!

I...



SOME-
TIMES
...

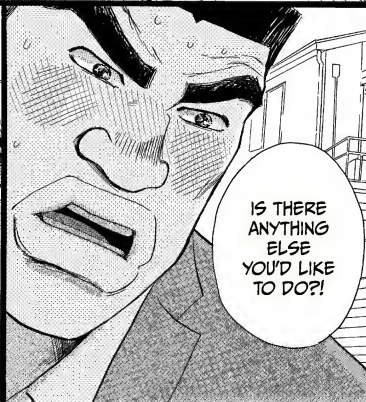
AND...



...TO
CLING TO
YOU...

I
WANT...





IS THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE
YOU'D LIKE
TO DO?!





ZAA





MINE
TOO.

AND MY
HANDS
ARE
SWEATY!

MY
HEART'S
POUNDING
SO HARD!



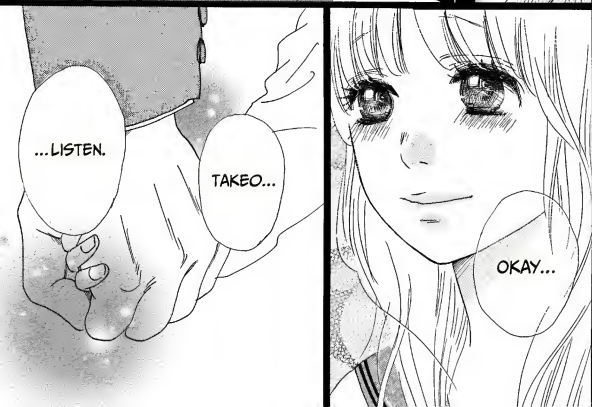
YES.

IS IT ALL
RIGHT TO
HOLD YOUR
HAND...

YOU DON'T
NEED TO
HOLD BACK,
EITHER!

...WHENEVER
I FEEL LIKE
IT?

YAMATO...



...LISTEN.

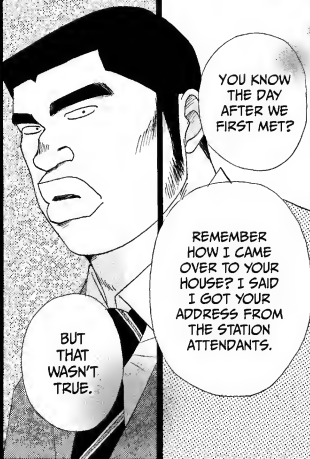
TAKEO...

OKAY...



...SO I WENT
TO YOUR
SCHOOL
AND ASKED
AROUND.

ACTUALLY,
I KNEW
FROM YOUR
UNIFORM
THAT YOU
WENT TO
SHUEI
HIGH...



YOU KNOW
THE DAY
AFTER WE
FIRST MET?

REMEMBER
HOW I CAME
OVER TO YOUR
HOUSE? I SAID
I GOT YOUR
ADDRESS FROM
THE STATION
ATTENDANTS.

BUT
THAT
WASN'T
TRUE.



THAT WAS ON
PURPOSE.

AND WHEN I
FORGOT MY
CELL PHONE IN
YOUR ROOM...



AND I
HAD TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN...

I HAD TO
DO *SOME-*
THING, OR
I'D NEVER
SEE YOU
AGAIN.



REALLY?!



I'M
SORRY
FOR
LYING.

AND YOU'D
EVEN SAID
I WAS
A NICE
GIRL...



SHE
WENT TO
SO MUCH
EFFORT...

I SEE.
I HAD
NO
IDEA!

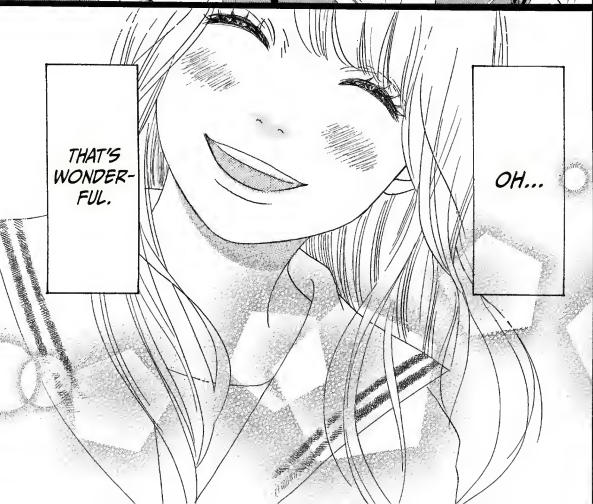


...TO
SEE
ME...

THANK
YOU.

YAMATO...



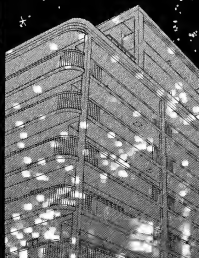
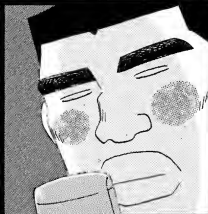


Takeo!

The stars are beautiful tonight. ✨
I saw a shooting star ✨ for the
first time in my life! ✨
I was just thinking about you. ♡
I hope that we'll stay together ♡
for a long time. ♡
The star's gone already.
Can I still make a wish ?! ❗ ?!

REALLY
WONDERFUL...

Re:
You still
can.



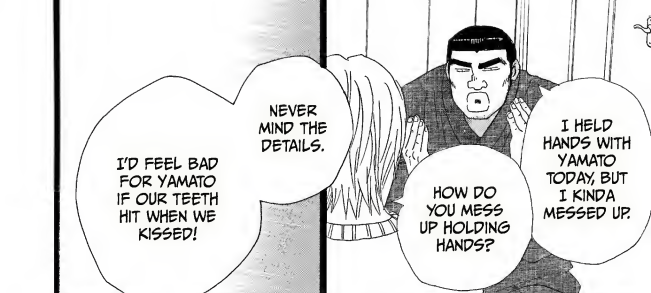
SLAM!



DON'T
WORRY,
YAMATO.

SUNA! I'M
COMING
IN.





I'D FEEL BAD
FOR YAMATO
IF OUR TEETH
HIT WHEN WE
KISSED!

NEVER
MIND THE
DETAILS.

HOW DO
YOU MESS
UP HOLDING
HANDS?

I HELD
HANDS WITH
YAMATO
TODAY, BUT
I KINDA
MESSED UP.



LET ME
PRACTICE
ON YOU.

IF I DID
IT WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE, I'D BE
CHEATING ON
YAMATO!

DO IT WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE.

I CAN'T
FIGURE OUT
THE RIGHT
DISTANCE!
I NEED TO
PRACTICE
ON A
PERSON!

I
ALREADY
DID!

WHY NOT
PRACTICE
ON A
PILLOW?



**YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE I
CAN ASK!**

**YOU
WOULDN'T
TELL
ANYONE!**



**WITH THIS
SEPARATING
US, THERE
WON'T BE A
PROBLEM.**

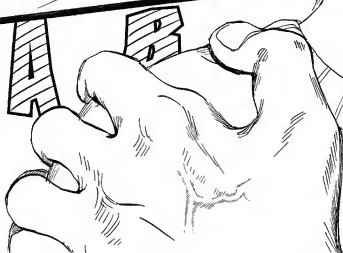
**NO WAY!
THAT'S TOO
REAL!**

**IT'S ALL
RIGHT. I
BROUGHT
PLASTIC
WRAP.**

**FORGET
IT! THAT'S
GROSS.**

**IT'S A HUGE
PROBLEM.**

GRAB





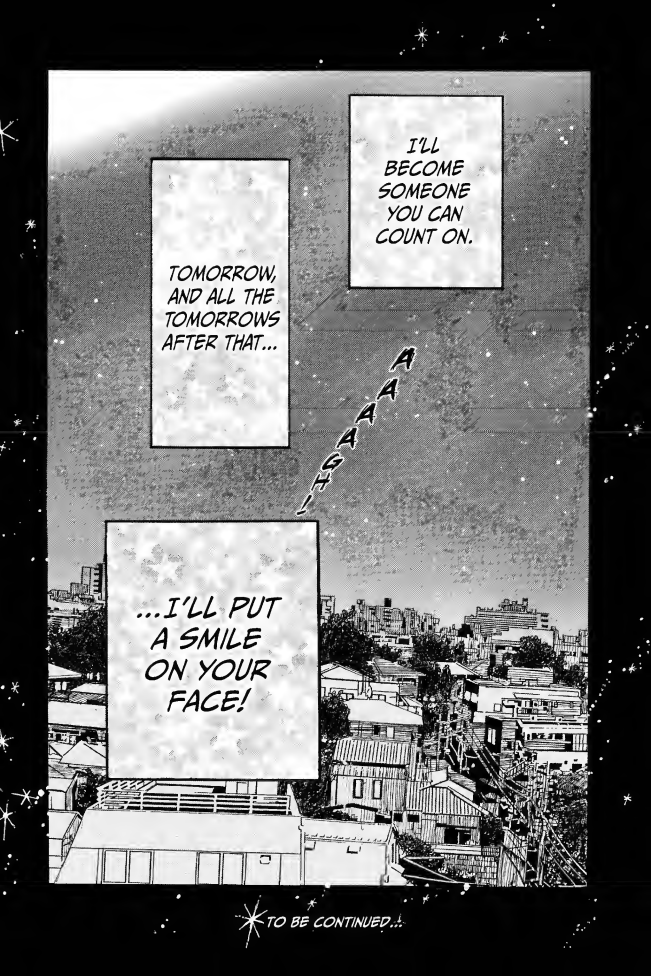
MAN UP
AND GET
READY
TOO!!

I'M
READY
FOR
THIS!

THERE'S
DEFINITELY
SOMETHING
WRONG
HERE...

YAMATO
...

DON'T
WORRY!



I'LL
BECOME
SOMEONE
YOU CAN
COUNT ON.

TOMORROW,
AND ALL THE
TOMORROWS
AFTER THAT...

...I'LL PUT
A SMILE
ON YOUR
FACE!

TO BE CONTINUED...

MY LOVE STORY!!

Volume 1
Shojo Beat Edition

Story **KAZUNE KAWAHARA**
Art by **ARUKO**

English Adaptation ♡ Ysabet Reinhardt MacFarlane
Translation ♡ JN Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering ♡ Mark McMurray
Design ♡ Fawn Lau
Editor ♡ Amy Yu

ORE MONOGATARI!!

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www.shojobeat.com

Hello. I'm Kawahara, the author. After I sent in my story, I was excited to see what kind of manga Aruko-san would create. It was better than I anticipated. It came as a shock to me and brought me to tears. Thank you very much, Aruko-san.
- Kazune Kawahara

(K)

ARUKO is from Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan and was born on July 26 (a Leo!). She made her manga debut with *Ame Nochi Hare* (Clear After the Rain). Her other works include *Yasuko to Kenji*, and her hobbies include laughing and getting lost.

This is the first time I've worked on something that already had a story, but despite being in awe of Kawahara Sensei's greatness, I had fun drawing it. I thought the original story was interesting, I thought drawing it was interesting, and I even thought what I had drawn was interesting. I would like as many people as possible to discover this series.
- Aruko

(A)

KAZUNE KAWAHARA is from Hokkaido Prefecture in Japan and was born on March 11th (a Pisces!). She made her manga debut at age 18 with *Kare no Ichiban Sukina Hito* (His Most Favorite Person). Her best-selling shojo manga series *High School Debut* is available in North America from VIZ Media. Her hobby is interior redecorating.

